(d) No Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply in Para (b) & (d) above.

(f) Not applicable in view of reply given in Para (b) & (c) above.

Re-Allocation of Arama V.P.T. in Nalanda District of Bihar

2035. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arama V.P.T. in Nalanda District is proposed to be relocated/shifted;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations have been received from local public including public representatives against such a move;

(d) whether the present location is ideal one from the point of view of revenue earning by the telecom department;

(e) if so, whether the only pressing reason for shifting it is to give benefit to Parwalpur V.P.T.; and

(f) in what manner Government propose to compensate the loss suffered by the allottee of the above V.P.T. due to its closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) Only on public complaint about its location the VPT at Arama in Bihar Sharif sub division, Nalanda district, Bihar had to be discontinued temporarily. Matter is being investigated departmentally in co-ordination with the concerned BDO on whose recommendation the location was approved as per present guidelines for selection of location and operator. On completion of investigation suitable action will be taken keeping in view the public convenience.

STD Facility in Taluka and Panchayats in Tamil Nadu

2036. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Talukas and Panchayats in Tamil Nadu having Telephone Exchanges with STD;

(b) the details of Talukas and Panchayats which do not have this facility; and

(c) by when STD facility will be provided in these Talukas and Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) All 194 Talukas in Tamil Nadu are having exchanges with STD facilities.

Out of total 384 Panchayats having telephone exchanges all are having STD facility except Vembakkam & Javvadu.

(b) and (c) Remaining two Panchayats with telephone exchanges viz Vembakkam and Javvadu are planned to be provided STD facility by March, 2000 subject to availability of resources.

Pensionary benefits to the employees of the instrumentalities of Government

2037. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2214 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, 1999 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pensionary benefits have been extended to many an instrumentality of Central Government *e.g.* Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; and

(b) if so, the reasons and justification, if any, for this blatant discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Pensionary benefits had been extended to a few instrumentalities of the Central Government. Pensionary benefits to the employees of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan were extended *w.e.f.* 2nd April, 1968.

(b) The Government are presently not in favour of extension of pensionary benefits to autonomous organisations receiving grants-in-aid from the Central Government in view of the additional financial implications involved. These employees are, however, covered by the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme. In addition, such organisations can introduce a suitable annuity scheme for their employees in case they so desire.